Dear Readers,

The increasing number of our scientific staff members as a result of a very successful fund raising as well as the organisation of a series of scientific events allow the IAMO to look optimistically ahead into a new year. There is also a preview of events planned in 2008 presented. In addition, we would like to inform you about personalities, projects and publications related to the scientific work of the institute.

The IAMO Directorate
(Alfons Balmann, Executive Director, Gertrud Buchenrieder, Thomas Glauben, Hannelore Zerjeski)

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Green Week Symposium: Which Consumption Potentials do China and Russia have?

At first sight, the demand potential of more than one billion consumers in China and Russia represents a nearly infinite market potential. However, whereas urban centres develop population strata that possess purchasing power, acrimonious poverty dominates these countries’ rural regions. This thesis underlies the planned reports and discussions of IAMO’s accompanying event to ‘Green Week’, titled ‘Consumption Potentials in China and Russia’, which will take place on Tuesday, January 17th, 2008, from 9:30 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. The event will be held in Hall 9, ICC, Berlin.

IAMO director Prof. Dr. Thomas Glauben will provide the thematic introduction by asking questions such as: How big is the current and future market area in Russia and China? Which demand developments constitute the present situation? What role does western food retailing play? Does a demand for quality products exist? Where are these produced?

The welcome address will be delivered by Dr. Gerd Müller, who is a parliamentary State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Production, Berlin.

The title of the first report is ‘Revolution or Evolution’, in which Prof. Prof. Dr. h. c. Bernd Hallier (Managing Director of the EHI Retail Institute) will outline the development of food retailing. Dr. Karl-Heinz Engel (Chairman of the Board of Directors Erbeskopf Eifelperle eG, Chairman of the Milk Industry Union and Chairman of the Export Union for Milk Products e. V.) will present the opportunities and risks for the German food processing industry.

‘Globalization and Food Quality and Safety’ will be examined in the second
part of the event. The scientific introduction will again be undertaken by Prof. Glauben. Furthermore, Anselm Elles (Chairman of AFC Management Consulting AG), Axel Wildner (Head of the Export Marketing division – CMA, Senior Legal Secretary), and Dr. German Jeub (Head of the Directorate of Foreign Trade Relations, BMELV) are expected to participate. Werner Prill (Lebensmittelzeitung) will be the moderator.

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Submission deadline for IAMO Forum 2008 fast approaching

The organising committee of the IAMO Forum 2008 „Agri-Food Business: Global Challenges - Innovative Solutions“ would like to remind all potentially interested participants that extended abstracts should be sent to IAMO by .

The IAMO Forum 2008 will be held from June 25–27, 2008, and for the first time an award will be presented for both the best paper and best poster presentation. The highest quality papers will be published in a special issue of a reviewed international journal. Contributions are welcomed on the following topics: changes on globalising world markets, emerging markets for renewable primary products, new management strategies, and future agricultural market policy.

Presenting participants may qualify for a travel or accommodation grant. The conference is supported by the German Research Foundation (DFG). See the conference web site (www.forum2008.iamo.de) for additional details.

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Welcome to the IAMO Alumni network!

The IAMO Alumni Network is now online. This network aims to intensify the exchange of ideas and make new contacts among former colleagues, visiting scholars and guests. The network provides alumnae/i with several options which allow the presentation of one’s research interests. The network exists in an English and a German version.

All alumnae/i are kindly invited to register and become members of the network. Access is provided either via the IAMO Homepage or via the URL http://www.iamo.de/alumni/index.html.

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Chinese delegation visited IAMO

The implementation of policies aiming at the support of rural development in Europe was at the center of interest for a Chinese delegation visiting IAMO in December. This was pointed out by the head of the delegation, Deputy Director-General Zhang Guoming, Agricultural Department in the Ministry of Finance, People’s Republic of China. His delegation consisted of five representatives of the Agricultural Department and 13 representatives of Ministries of Finance of several Chinese provinces. The main topic of the discussion was on IAMO’s research activities in the area of evaluating agricultural and rural development policies in European and Asian transition
countries. During the three-week tour of Europe organized by the Association of German-Chinese friendship, the delegation made contacts with ministries and government offices, universities and research institutes, sectoral lobby groups and agricultural enterprises.

Dr. Martin Petrick’s presentation “The Role of the Government in Rural Development” gave rise to a discussion on the tasks that should preferably be handled by a central government and those responsibilities that should rather be met by decentralized bodies like local governments, or cooperatives. The delegation was interested to hear about the present distribution of responsibilities between the EU-commission, national and regional governments, and non-governmental bodies. The delegates’ questions emphasized the relevance of the topic for current policy in China.

Dr. Kathrin Happe, who coordinates several research projects on the impact of agricultural policies on farm structures, gave an overview of agricultural structures in Europe. She explained how her research group uses computer simulations to predict effects of different agricultural policy options on farm structure, rural socioeconomic development and the environment. This practical presentation of the research work and its results triggered lively discussions on efficient implementation of agricultural policies. Dr. Happe pointed out that this very effect, the discussion of decision makers on policy effects in the light of economic mechanisms, can be regarded as a major policy contribution of her research.

Preceeding the discussion Dr. Stephan Brosig, organizer of the delegation’s visit at IAMO and IAMO director Prof. Thomas Glauben welcomed the guests and presented IAMO’s topical focus. Prof. Glauben emphasized that China takes an increasingly prominent position in IAMO’s research portfolio. For example, IAMO researchers coordinate the international research group “Economic Dynamics and Social Balance in Rural China”. For the project involving researchers from China, USA, and Germany 680,000 Euros have been granted this year. Good contacts with decision makers in Chinese agricultural policy are important for IAMO in order to keep its growing research activities on China adjusted to practically relevant problems.

“Your choice to visit IAMO is a good choice” said Dr. Friedrich Stübner, Department of International Relationships, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Saxony-Anhalt in his address to the Chinese delegates. He briefly sketched the economically favourable structure of Saxony-Anhalt’s agriculture.

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Professorship for Hockmann and Weingarten

Dr. Heinrich Hockmann obtained an associate professorship and Dr. Peter Weingarten a honorary professorship from Martin-Luther-University in Halle (Saale).

Prof. Hockmann has been deputy head of IAMO’s department of Agricultural Markets, Marketing and World Agricultural Trade since 2002 and, as an acting head of department, was a member of the IAMO directorate for almost three years. His research focuses on vertical integration, foreign direct investment, competitiveness of the food industry, game theory, industrial organisation, production economics, mathematical planning approaches and the following projects: FOODCOMM (6. EU-framework programme) and Agroholdings in Russia. The latter project is funded by about 350.000 EUR from German Research Foundation and is carried out in cooperation with the Allrussian Research Institute of Agricultural Economics (VNIIESCh) in Moscow.

Prof. Dr. Peter Weingarten has been head of the Institute of Rural Studies in the Federal Agricultural Research Centre (FAL) at Braunschweig since January 2007. Between 1995 and 2006 he was deputy head of IAMO’s department External Environment for Agriculture and Policy Analysis and, as an acting head of department, was a member of the IAMO directorate for
Last & Lost – Pictures of Disappearing, Abandoned and Degenerated Cities

‘Last & Lost – Pictures of a Disappearing Europe’ is an exhibition entitled that opens on January 10th, 2008, 5.00 p. m, at IAMO. Photos and video tapes to be presented are from 18 artists who have travelled to the peripheries of Europe and have taken pictures of disappearing, abandoned, and degenerated cities in Norway, Ukraine, Albania, Germany, Ireland and Russia. The exhibition contains minimalist creations, monumental architecture photos, severe typologies and surreal street photos that range from Lisbon to Istanbul.

The goal of the exhibition is to explore the allotropic history of Europe under the keyword ‘disappear’, thus presenting as many approaches and forms as possible, including art disciplines and media, as well as representing their striking correspondence. The organiser is the Federal Center for Political Education in cooperation with the Literature House Munich, within the scope of the project ‘Last & Lost’, aided by the Federal Cultural Foundation.

T. O. Immisch (Stiftung Moritzburg, Halle) will conduct the opening ceremonies.

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IAMO strengthens cooperation with Polish Agricultural Economists

The Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics - National Research Institute (IERiGŻ-PIB), Poland, and IAMO have reached an agreement to strengthen their research capacities and utilise synergy effects on research in agricultural economics and rural development. The research cooperation will focus on, but not be limited to, analysing the efficiency and flexibility of Polish individual farms. The first results of this cooperation have been published in the Polish Journal of Agricultural Economics (Zagadnienia Ekonomiki Rolnej /Economics of Polish Agriculture).

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"Understanding the structures in China and Russia"

China and Russia are considered to be giants in the agricultural sector. This is the conclusion drawn by „China und Russland – Neue Giganten am Agrarhimmel“, which was organised for the Agritechnica 2007 by IAMO and the German Agricultural Society). However, development differs between the countries: While Russia has mainly become an exporter of grains and will
continue to gain importance in this area, China’s development is accompanied by some particularities. Urbanisation and the increasing wealth of the middle and upper classes is enhancing the demand for processed food with high standards of quality and security. This demand is increasingly covered on the world market, thus implying consequences for prices and the supply of agricultural goods in other regions in the world, e.g. the European Union. On the other hand, establishing markets in China have required more efforts with regard to particularities of customs and culture than in Russia. Furthermore, to establish a successful business in either country, one has to "understand the structures in China and Russia". From this standpoint, many challenges arise for both German and European agribusinesses. (A detailed briefing, including presentations, can be found at www.iamo.de).

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Staff member works at the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection

Astrid Rewerts, Research Associate in the Department of Agricultural Markets, worked from Sept. 17th to Nov. 16th at the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV) in Berlin. On request of the ministry she served in the department "Regierungsberatung in Beitrittsländer, Ost- und Südosteuropa". Her work included research on the agricultural markets of various countries that will cooperate with the BMELV in the near future on a project in Inner Mongolia (PR China), as well as the prearrangement of meetings and stopovers of delegations. Furthermore, her two-month stay provided her with insight into the general functioning of a federal ministry and into several ongoing project activities in various countries by taking part at a twinning-conference organised by the BMELV.

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Agricultural Ministers of South-eastern Europe sign Declaration for Regional Cooperation on Rural Development

Agricultural Ministers and Vice Ministers, as well as other high ranking representatives of South-eastern Europe (SEE) countries and territories, held a working meeting in Dresden this November and signed a declaration on regional cooperation for rural development in SEE. With the declaration, the ministers affirmed their overall political, financial and technical support for the activities of the Standing Working Group for Regional Rural Development in South Eastern Europe (SWG), which was founded two years ago with the support of InWEnt and the Society for Agricultural Projects (GFA). The ministerial meeting was part of the 3rd Agricultural Policy Forum 2007, held in Dresden in November and organised by InWEnt, GTZ and IAMO on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. During the meeting, the ministers were also welcomed by the Saxon State Minister for the Environment and Agriculture. In the afternoon, they visited the municipality of Nebelschütz, an area of "best practise for regional rural development in Saxony" and exchanged experiences and ideas with the mayor and other representatives from the region.

For more information, please contact:  

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Recent Publications
complete publication list

Studies on the Agricultural and Food Sector in Central and Eastern Europe


IAMO Discussion Papers


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